

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/002,212  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. A8166

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 17 have been examined on their merits. Claims 5-16 and 18-20 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants herein cancel claims 2-4, and incorporate their recitations into claims 1 and 17, respectively.

Applicants herein add new claims 22 and 23. Although the subject matter of claims 5-8 was withdrawn from further consideration as being a non-elected species, new claims 22 and 23 are directed to a holder that will prevent or allow fluid flow through flow holes in both the inner annular wall and the outer annular wall. *See, e.g.*, Figures 13G and 13I of the instant application. Amended claims 1 and 17 would also embrace the embodiment illustrated in Figures 13G and 13I as well. Entry and consideration of the new claims 22 and 23 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 17, 22 and 23 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

1. Claims 1, 2 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kidwell *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,239,030). The rejection of claim 2 is now moot due to its cancellation. Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 1 and 17 for at least the reasons discussed below.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 17 with the recitations of cancelled claims 2-4. The Patent Office has indicated that such a combination of claims 1-4 would be allowable. Applicants submit that claims 1 and 17 are allowable, and further submit that claims 22 and 23 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 1 and 17, respectively.

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Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office withdraw the § 102(e) rejection of claims 1 and 17.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE  
**23373**  
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: November 22, 2004